Helvetia

ADVICE

FROM

SWITZERLAND:

Giving a Full and True

ACCOUNT

HOW FAR

The *SWITZERS* are engaged in the *French Interest* against the *Confederates.*

In a LETTER sent of late from SWITZERLAND to LONDON, by a *Gentleman* of *Honour*, to a *Person* of *Quality.*

LONDON:

Printed in the YEAR 1705.

ADVICE

FROM

SWITZERLAND

Giving a Full and True

ACCOUNT

OF THE

The SWITZERS are engaged in the
French Interest against the Confederates.

In a LETTER lent of late from SWITZERLAND
to LONDON, by a Gentleman of Honour, to a
Person of Quality.

LONDON:

Printed in the YEAR 1705.

Right Honourable,

I Received yours from *London*, and wou'd have *answered* it sooner, if you had not desired me to make a full *Enquiry first* into those several *Particulars* you mentioned in *yours*, about the *Proceedings* of the *Switzers* at this present *Juncture* of *Time*, to give your *Honour* a full and *true Account*, how far they are engaged in the *French Interest*? But I must needs tell you, that if my sworn *Duty* of *Allegiance* to *Her* Sacred *Majesty*, and my *Natural Love* for my Native *Country* had not constrained me, I shou'd not presume to trouble your *Honour* any further to resolve this *Question*, which is now (as you say) in the *Mouth* of almost every *English-man*.

" Why do the *Switzers* comply so far with the " *French King*, as to let him buy *Horses*, *Ammunitions*, " and other Commodities in their *Cantons*, and to " *raise Men* (which is most unjustifiable) in their " *Cantons*, to serve against the *Confederates*?

But as this Question is stated upon a very wrong *Basis*, no *direct Answer* can be given to it: For, unless we have a right *Idea* of that *Nation*, we shall pass a very *erroneous Sentence* upon the *Innocent* as well as the *Guilty*.

1. The *Switzers* indeed (in a *general sense*) are but *one People*, or *Nation*, and they go under the *Ti-*

tle of, the *Helvetick Body*: But it is (in reality) after the ſame manner as the *Italians* are but *one People*, or one *Nation*; but under ſo many *diſtinct Heads, States, and Commonwealths*; even ſo the *Switzers* are not only divided into ſo many *Cantons* (which are *thirteen*) but into ſo many *diſtinct Republicks*, ſome of which are perfect *Ariſtocracies*; but others are meer *Democracies*; more diſtinct in their Forms of *Government*, in their *Languages*, *Properties*, and *Privileges*, (beſides their difference in *Religion*) and more *independent* from each other, than either the *Republick* of *Venice* from that of *Genoua*, or the Kingdom of *Naples* from the *Dukedom* of *Tuſcany*, or from the *Milaneze*.

α. But however (as to our *preſent Caſe* in hand) they make but *two Factions*, at this preſent *Juncture* of Time.

" I. The one of which (as I cannot deny it) are " entirely *Frenchified*.

" II. But the others are not only *Well-wiſhers* to " the *Confederates*, but *Promoters* alſo (as far as " their Ability prompteth them to *act* ſafely) of " their *Intereſt*, as I ſhall make it appear anon.

I. They that are *Frenchified*, are all the *Popiſh Cantons* in general, who being allured (be it ſpoken to their ſhame) with that *curſed Bait* of *French Money*, aſſiſt the *French* with as many *Horſes* and *Men*, as they may ſpare; eſpecially, ſince their *Frenchified Prieſts*, *Jeſuites*, and *Monks*, have the Impudence to *exclaim* againſt the *Confederates*, in order to delude, and inſinuate to their Country-men (both in their *Pulpits*, and in common *Converſation*) " That this " preſent *War* is a *Religious War*; that the *Catholick*

" *Princes*

" *Princes* (Confederate againſt *France*) are fallen in-
" to a deadly Lethargy; that *England*, *Holland*,
" *Pruſſia*, *Heſſen*, and *Hanover*, have no other *real*
" *Deſign*, but to propagate *Hereſie*, and to ſuppreſs
" the Intereſt of *Rome*; and that conſequently the
" *French King*, and the *Duke* of *Anjou* [being the
" only true *Sons* of the *Church*, and *Exterminа-*
" *tors* of *Hereſie*] ought to be aſſiſted for their pious
" *Zeal* in their *holy Deſigns*, &c.

And what can be more plauſible, or more prevailing upon *bigotted democratical People*, than ſuch *Jeſuitical Inſinuations*, backed with the ſweet Influence of *French Gold*?

II. But now thoſe *Switzers* that are *Promoters* of the *common Intereſt* of the Confederates, are all the *Proteſtant Cantons* in general.

This I dare *affirm* poſitively, as a *real Truth*, (for I know how to make it out as plain as the *Sun* of *the Firmament*) tho' it be contradicted by ſuch *Men* as have a very wrong *Notion* of the *Switz Nation*; when they do not ſcruple to aver, That " even the *Prote-*
" *ſtant* (as well as the *Popiſh*) *Switzers*, are the
" *French Kings* devoted *Creatures*; that they *ſell* their
" *Men* like *Slaves* or *Beaſts*, to ſuch as bid 'em moſt
" *Money*, that they are worſe *bribed* by *France* than
" their *Popiſh Country-men*; that they wou'd be ready
" to fight, not only for the *French Tyrant*, but even
" for the *Devil* himſelf, if but he ſhou'd come in
" with them with a good *ſtore* of *Money*; and that
" (in one word) they are, for the moſt *part*, ſuch
" *Men* as are without any *Senſe* either of true *Honour*,
" or of Religion.

But, may it pleaſe your *Honour*, if I cannot only *aſſert*, but *prove* the clear *contrary*, I hope *your Honour* will be ſatisfied, that all ſuch-like *Allegations* againſt the *Proteſtant Switzers*, are horrid *Miſconceits*, or *Miſrepreſentations*, which are ill grounded; either upon meer *Ignorance*; or elſe upon a malicious *Deſign* of rendring the *Proteſtant Switzers equal* to the *Papiſts*, in order to draw an Univerſal Odium of the *Confederates* (eſpecially of the *Proteſtant Princes*, and *States*) upon the *Proteſtant Cantons*; tho' they be as remote from ſuch (above-mentioned) damnable *Principles* and *Practices*, as the *Eaſt* is from the *Weſt*; and tho' they ſtand as well affected towards the *Common Intereſt* of *Europe*, as any of the moſt zealous *Confederates*.

The *Proof* whereof relieth upon theſe following inconteſtable Inſtances, *viz.*

1. The *Proteſtant Switzers* have withdrawn their ancient *Troops* (ſome of which were of above a *hundred Years* ſtanding) from the *French King's Service*, ever ſince the late *King William* (of glorious Memory) his Acceſſion to the *Crown*.

2. They never granted the *French King* any other *new Troops* in lieu of the old ones, ſince they were recalled home by *Publick Authority*, tho' the *French King* did ſollicit 'em for it, a hundred times ſince, by *Monſieur Amelot*, and *Puiſieux*, &c.

3. They made and *enacted* (even from that time) very ſevere *Laws*, or ſtrict *Mandatory Prohibitions* [throughout the ſeveral reſpective *Proteſtant Cantons*] that none of their Subjects, Citizens, Inhabitants, (nor any *Foreigner*) of what *Degree* or *Quality* ſoever; ſhou'd either *directly* or *indirectly* ſell any *Horſes*, or *Ammunitions*; or liſt himſelf, or *raiſe Men* for the Service of *France*; nor to have any under-

hand-

hand-dealing, or *private communication* with the *French Court*; and that ſuch as ſhou'd *act* contrary thereunto, ſhou'd ſuffer *Impriſonment*, or *Baniſhment*, or *Death*, according to the *Nature* of the *Crime*, fairly proved againſt him.

" *N. B.* A notable *Inſtance* whereof is that unhap-
" py *Gentleman*, *Mr. King*, a Noble *Patrician* of
" *Bern*, who having made a *Diſcovery* (he being
" then *Under-Secretary* of *State*) of ſome *Meaſures*
" taken by the *Proteſtant Cantons*, for the *Defence* of
" the *Republick* of *Geneva* againſt *France*; was im-
" mediately beheaded, to the great aſtoniſhment and
" diſſatisfaction of the *French King*, &c.

4. They ſent the ſame *Troops* which were recalled from *France* to the *States General*, with an *Addition* of ſeveral other conſiderable *Forces*, &c.

5. The ſame *Troops* are ſtill (ever ſince that time) employed in the *Service* of the *States General*, &c.

6. They give *leave* to the *Officers* of the *States General*, to make *Recruits* at any *time* in the *Proteſtant Cantons*, to keep the ſaid *Troops* always compleat; that they may not be mixt with *Strangers*, but conſiſt of *Proteſtant Switzers* only: When, to the contrary, it is a *Capital Crime* there, for any Man to *raiſe Men*, or to *ſell Horſes* for the *French King's Service*, &c.

7. They ever did (and do ſtill) defend and *protect*, not only the City of *Conſtance*, and the *Frickthall*, but all the *Foreſt-Towns* (commonly call'd *Wald-ſtat*) and ſome other *Imperial Hereditary Lands*, [beſides the *Republick of Geneva*] which the *French King* (for that *Reaſon*) never had the Courage to attack, nor to invade, nor to moleſt, becauſe the *Proteſtant Switzers* (in *time* of *need*) keep *Garriſons* in thoſe Parts, *&c.*

8. They

8. They never gave *leave* to any *French Army* (as the *Republick* of *Venice* hath done of late, and doth ſo ſtill) to ſet *Foot* upon their *Territories*, to the *prejudice* of the *Confederates*; but whenever a *French Army* wheedleth thereabouts, to invade *Germany* on that ſide, they are immediately up for a General *Storm* (as they call it) or an Univerſal *Alarm*, that upon Twenty four *Hours Warning* they may be ready to oppoſe them, *&c.*

9. When the *French Emiſſaries* endeavoured (but of late) to confound the *Cantons* about the Buſineſs of *Newkirk*, in the *County* of *Tourgow* (depending partly upon ſome *Proteſtant*, and partly upon ſome *Popiſh Cantons*) to facilitate the *French Intrigues* on that ſide, which bordereth upon *Conſtance*; the *Proteſtant Switzers* did ſolemnly declare, "That they "wou'd not yield one *Hair's Breadth* of their *Privi-* "*leges*, and that they wou'd rather venture their "*All*, for the *Defence* thereof, againſt the *French* "*Faction.* Which *Flame* [kindled by *Jeſuites*, and fomented by *France*] is now happily quenched, ſince the *Proteſtant Switzers* took that generous Reſolution, *&c.*

10. When the *Abbot* of St. *Gale*, (who is a *Secular Prince* of the *County* of *Tockenbourg*; whoſe *Miniſters* are undoubtedly ſpurred on under-hand by *French Caballers*) had a Deſign [but of late] to undermine the *Liberties* and *Immunities* of that *Principality*, and to introduce *Popery*; contrary to the *Articles* of a *Covenant*, made between that *Prince* and the *Canton* of *Zurich*, ſince the *Reformation*; the *Senate* of *Zurich* ſent him *Word*, That if their fair *Proteſtations* wou'd not bring him to *Reaſon*, they wou'd ſend an *Army* againſt him [to reduce him by Force, to obſerve the *Covenant*]

Covenant] in order to *protect* the *Proteſtant Religion*, notwithſtanding all the *French* and *Jeſuitical Arts*. Since which *Reſolutions* the *Abbot* hath laid aſide his *Deſigns*, &c.

11. Since the Death of the *Dutcheſs* of *Longueville* (the late Heireſs of the *City* and *County* of *Neufchaſtle*) the *French King* uſed all manner of *Stratagems*, to have the Conſent of the *Proteſtant Cantons*, that the ſaid *City* and *Principality* might be devolved upon *Prince Conty*, or ſome other *Prince* of the *French Blood*; but all his *Policy* proved but a Spider's *Web*; for, they will never yield that the *French Blood* ſhou'd circulate in a *Proteſtant Limb*, ſo near related to their own *Body*. For, they have good *Reaſon* to ſee that *Principality* ſetled (after the Death of the *Dutcheſs* of *Nemours*) upon His *Majeſty* of *Pruſſia*; who hath a far better *Title* to it than the *Houſe* of *Bourbon*; and therefore they will leave no Stone unturned, (at it's proper *time*) to have it devolved upon their *lawful Prince*, which is His *Majeſty* of *Pruſſia*, &c.

And the *French King* is ſo ſenſible of *this*, that *He* employeth all his *Credit*, and playeth all his *Tricks* his *Policy* is capable of, among the *Popiſh Switzers*, to get their aſſiſtance (when *time* may ſerve) againſt the *Proteſtant Cantons*, and againſt His *Majeſty* of *Pruſſia*, upon a falſe *ſurmiſe* to them, that the *Proteſtant Switzers*, eſpecially *Zurich* and *Bern*, (being too deeply engaged in their *Hereſie*) have a *Deſign* to ſettle the ſaid *City* and *Principality* of *Neufchaſtle*, upon a wrong *Heir*, who is an *Heretical Prince*, againſt the juſt and wiſe *Decree* (as he miſcalleth it) of his *Parliament*.

But ſo far as I am able to penetrate into that *Affair* (which is of greater *moment* than you are ſenſible of in *England*;) I do verily believe, that the *Proteſtant Switzers* will ſacrifice their *All*, rather than to ſee His *Majeſty* of *Pruſſia* diſappointed, or deprived of his lawful *Title*.

12. When the *French King* (of late Years) had an Army of above an *Hundred-thouſand Men*, not far from *Geneva*, with a Deſign to beſiege it; the *Proteſtant Switzers* ſent *two Ambaſſadors* to the *French King*, to make *Interceſſion* for *Geneva*. But he refuſing to give 'em Publick Audience, *dans les Formes*, upon a ſpecious pretext that they were not ſent by the whole *Helvetick Body*; and they refuſing (according to their *Inſtructions* from the *Proteſtant Cantons*) any *private Audience*, or *Interview* with the *French King*; he afterwards employed *Monſieur de Louvoy*, his *Principal Secretary* of *State*, to cajole, to delude, and (had it been poſſible) to bribe *my Lord Eſcher*, Conſul of *Zurich*, and my Lord *Dachſelhoffer* of *Bern*, [who were the *two Ambaſſadors* of the *Proteſtant Cantons*;] but theſe worthy *Gentlemen* did not only ſlight all the fair *Promiſes*, and the rich *Preſents* of *Louis d'Ors*, *Jewels*, *Golden Chains*, &c. offered to them by *Monſieur de Louvoy*, and laid upon the *Table*. And they told him *roundly*, "That they were not ſent "thither to be decoy'd by *Preſents*, but to have *Au-* "*dience* of the King, *dans les Formes*; and ſeeing "they could not have it, they had *Orders* to return "home; having no more to do there, but only to "let the *King* his *Maſter* know, that as their *Anceſtors* had ſhed *Rivers* of *Blood* to ſupport the "*Royalty* of the *Houſe* of *France*; ſo they wou'd

"now

" now ſhed every *Drop* of their *Blood* for the *Defence* " of the *Republick* of *Geneva*, &c.

13. When His late *Majeſty*, *King William*, deſired ſome of their *Troops*, they did agree to ſend him *Eight thouſand Men*; which were *effectually raiſed*, and ready to march for *Flanders*: But upon the unreaſonable *Punctilio's* ſtarted (unexpectedly and on a ſudden) by Mr. *Cox*, who was then *Envoy* there, they were countermanded, *&c.*

Now if all theſe Premiſſes (which are *real Truths*, as being *Matters of Fact*) be duly and impartially weighed; it will appear (as a *palpable Evidence*) to any judicious unbiaſſed *Judge*; [nay, I dare ſafely appeal to your *Honour*'s Integrity and great Wiſdom,] that the *Proteſtant Switzers* are not fairly handled, when ſome ignorant *Talkers* (as well as publick *Libellers*) do ſtigmatize 'em with the black and odious *Character* of *Men* that have no *Senſe*, neither of *Honour*, nor of *Religion*.

But I humbly beg *leave* of *your Honour* to conſider:

1. That the hot *Proceedings* of ſome haughty *Foreign Miniſters* (coming to the *General Diet* of the *Switzers*, and making no diſtinction between the *Friends* of the *Confederates*, and the *French Faction*) are apt to embroil the *Affairs*, and create a general *Diſguſt* among the whole *Helvetick Body*.

2. That eſpecially ſome *Imperial Miniſters* are uſed to *treat* all the *Cantons* in general (without any exception of *Friends* or *Foes*) after a fierce and diſdainful *manner*, threatning them with the *Emperor*'s higheſt Diſpleaſure, Indignation, Revenge, *&c.* when the

Cantons do not exactly and immediately comply with their Demands, *&c.*

3. And but of late, the *Emperor* [upon the Inſtigation of ſuch *Miniſters*, as I do ſuppoſe] hath laid an unuſual *Tax* upon the *Salt* that is imported from *Germany* into *Switzerland*; contrary to the former *Contracts* agreed upon between the *Cantons*, and the *Houſe of Auſtria*.

4. Such imprudent Proceedings (at ſuch a *critical Juncture* of time) muſt needs provoke the *Switz Stomach*, and be very grateful and profitable to the *French King*; who is ready to catch at all *Occaſions*, to keep the *Popiſh Cantons* at his *Devotion*, ſupplying them *gratis* (or for a ſmall *matter*) with *Salt* from *France*; as not long ago he ſupplied them with *Wheat*, when the *Emperor* did prohibit the Importation of it from *Suabia* into *Switzerland*.

5. A mild and diſcreet proceeding wou'd go a great way with thoſe *Switz Republicans*; but when they are uſed after that rate, as tho' they were the *Emperor's Subjects*, or *Slaves*, no wonder if it ſhou'd exaſperate the whole *Helvetick Body*, &c.

6. But I humbly conceive, that the continuance of an amicable Correſpondence between *Her Sacred Majeſty*, and the ſaid *Proteſtant Cantons*, wou'd be a Point of *Policy* of the higheſt Importance, to mitigate, and to meliorate thoſe Matters for the Common Good of *Europe*. And I am of Opinion, that if things be diſcreetly managed by the Induſtry of a ſagacious Miniſter from Her *Sacred Majeſty* to the *Cantons*, [who ſhou'd know the Genius of that *Nation*, how to inſinuate himſelf *cautiouſly* with all the *Cantons* in general, but eſpecially with the *Proteſtant Cantons*, which make the far *major part* of that *Nation*;

tion; to encourage them on *Her Majesty*'s behalf, not only in *things* relating to the *secular Privilege* of their *Government*, but chiefly also in the Sacred *Affairs* of the *Protestant Religion*] that the *Protestant Cantons* wou'd for ever hereafter continue in *Her Majesty*'s (and her *Successors*) Interest, without renewing their *ancient League* with the *Crown* of *France*.

7. But as such an amicable *Correspondence* of *Her Majesty* with the *Protestant Cantons*, wou'd be a *Piece* of the *highest Policy*, and greatest *Necessity*, to thwart and baffle the *French Interest* there, (and by degrees to draw away even the *Popish Cantons* themselves from the *French Interest*) so it wou'd be a *Point of Religion*, and consequently of the greatest *Glory*, that may accrue to *Her Majesty*'s Sacred *Person* and *Government*; because the *Protestant Switzers* have not only a singular *Love* for the *English Nation*, and for the *Church* of *England*, as by *Law established*; but they have the same *Veneration* for *Her Majesty's Sacred Person* and *Government*, as tho' she were their own *Sovereign*; and therefore both in their *private* and *publick Devotions* (in all their *Churches* and *Chapels* throughout the *Protestant Cantons*) they pray heartily for *Her Majesty*'s long *Life* and happy *Government*, in the same Terms as we do here in our *Churches*, *viz.* that *God* may bless and preserve *Her Majesty*, as the *Defender of Faith*, &c.

8. Now, may it please your *Honour*, seeing the *Protestant Switzers* stand thus affected towards the *Confederates*; seeing they never did *act* (as their *Popish Country-men*) in favour of the *French King*; seeing they make it a *Capital Crime* in their *Jurisdiction*, for any one of their *Subjects*, or *Citizens*, or *Inhabi-*

tants

tants (be they Foreigners, or Free-born-Men) to *ſell Horſes*, or to *raiſe Men* for the *French King*'s Service; ſeeing they have (of their own *accord*) withdrawn their *Troops* from *France*, and done thoſe *things* (mentioned in the *Premiſſes*) without being either obliged or conſtrained, or preſſed thereto; and ſeeing by doing ſo they have diſobliged, at ſundry times, not only the *Popiſh Cantons*, but alſo the *French King*, for employing their *Troops* againſt him, and againſt his *Grand-ſon*; may *your Honour* judge, whether thoſe worthy *Gentlemen* (the *Proteſtant Switzers*) deſerve the Ill-will of the *Confederates*, or rather their higheſt *Commendations*? Eſpecially if *your Honour* doth conſider how they have expoſed themſelves (upon that account) to the *French King*'s Diſpleaſure, who wants but a fair Opportunity to be even with them.

9. But if the *Confederates* expect better *Succeſs* in *Switzerland*, (eſpecially from the *Popiſh Cantons*) than they have had hitherto, it will be for their *Intereſt*, to employ ſuch mild and wiſe *Miniſters* as underſtand the *Genius* of the *Helvetick Body*; ſuch prudent *Agents* as are acquainted with the *Nature* of their *Government*, with their reſpective *Privileges* and *Immunities*; let 'em ſend ſuch *Envoys* and *Secretaries* as know how to take the *Switzers*, *par leur Foible*; let 'em but imitate the prudent *Conduct* of the *French Agents* there, and learn ſomething of their *Policy*, and they will by degrees ſee a great alteration of Affairs.

10. But if the *Miniſters* of the *Confederates* think, it is more ſafe for them to *hector* the whole *Helvetick Body* into their *Intereſt* by *Menaces*, by *Fierceneſs*, by diſdainful *Uſage*; if their *Memorials* be full of Bitterneſs and Invectives, without making any prudent difference

difference between the *Innocent* and the *Guilty*; or if thoſe *Miniſters* think it beneath their *Character*, to ſhew themſelves *affable* and *mild* to a *Free Sovereign State*, to win 'em over by fair and gentle *means*, as the *French Agents* are uſed to do; then may *your Honour* be ſatisfied, that ſuch *Miniſters* will not only diſappoint their *Maſters* of their Expectation, but they will alſo (in a great *meaſure*) obſtruct the good *Intents* of thoſe that are *Promoters* of their *Intereſt*.

Your Honour cannot be ignorant of the great *Advantages* the *Confederates* (in general, and her *Sacred Majeſty* in particular) wou'd reap from a prudent *Management* of *Affairs* among the *Switzers*, if the whole *Helvetick Body* ſhou'd be drawn away by fair *means* from the *French Intereſt*, which in *time* might be done indeed, if but the *Miniſters* of the *Confederates* ſhou'd yield to imitate the *Wiſdom* of the *French Serpent*.

I am with Sincerity of *Reſpect*,

Your HONOUR's,

At *Baden* in *Switzer-land*,
March 1. 170$\frac{4}{5}$.

Very humble and obedient Servant,

N. N.

MVSEVM
BRITAN
NICVM